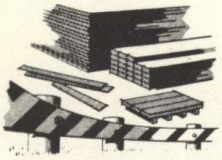
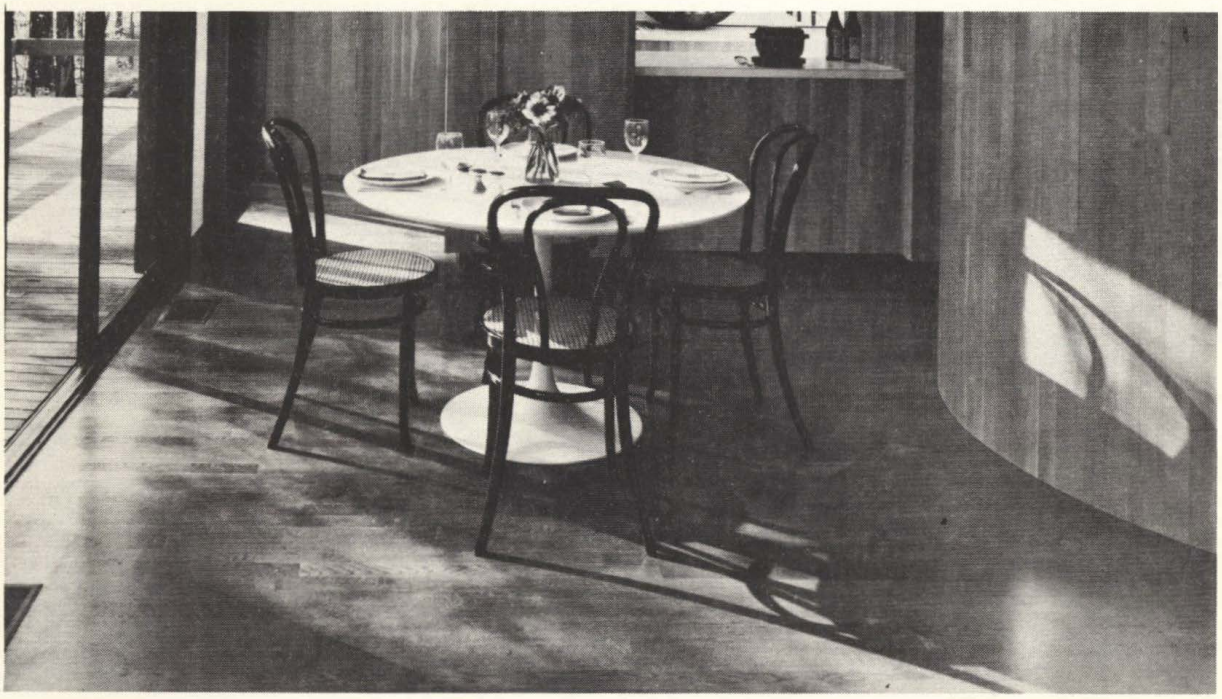
FORESTRY SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF MAN

Number 6



FOREST
PRODUCTS MARKETING

What Do You Know About Flooring ?



Oak strip flooring used on floor and walls.

Forest Service Market Analyst David G. Martens of the Forest Products Marketing and Utilization Laboratory, Princeton, W. Va., is a flooring expert. He recently completed a flooring survey of apartment house owners and tenants in nine major American cities -- Los Angeles, Denver, Houston, St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, New York, and Washington. The data from his study points out a number of definite advantages of hardwood flooring. The principal advantage is its money-saving quality. In economy it leads both carpeting and composition tile -- both vinyl asbestos and asphalt.

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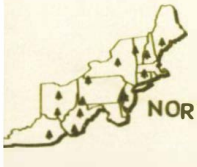

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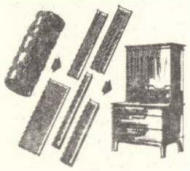
Although costing as much to install as other types of flooring, hardwood floors last longer. This long wear life brings down the cost of hardwood in the long run. In fact, a homeowner with a 15- by 20-foot living room could save $750 on this room alone over the period of a 25-year mortgage if he had hardwood flooring instead of wall-to-wall carpeting. And he could expect to save $484 if he had hardwood floors instead of composition tile.

Other good qualities of hardwood floors are well-received by the consumer. When it comes time to build a new home, the majority of people living on hardwood floors will remain loyal to this flooring material. In fact, 65 percent of the people living on hardwood floors now prefer them and have indicated they intend to put them in their next home.

In the long run, Forest Service analysts decided that hardwood floors are a practical investment for the homeowner -- one that he would be wise to consider in planning his next home.

To consider the report of survey findings, request NE-124, FLOORING COSTS, A Comparison of Installation and Maintenance Costs for Three Types of Residential Flooring, from: Information Services, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 6816 Market St., Upper Darby, Pa., 19082.



FOREST
PRODUCTS UTILIZATION

Level Floors Make the Difference

Level floors are imperative in urban rehabilitation programs. Without level floors, contractors cannot take advantage of prefabricated kitchen, bathroom, and living room units, whose installation can quicken the pace of the urban facelift.

City tenement house floors sag, on the average, between two and four inches, and sometimes as much as eight inches. Until recently the sag in tenement house floors made renovation look virtually impractical and impossible for the approximately 10 million city dwelling units the Federal Housing Authority estimated in need of repair. A fast and economical leveling system was in demand.

So, Forest Service flooring experts David G. Martens and E. Paul Craft got together with researchers from private industry and developed a floor straightening technique that combines simplicity, flexibility, speed, and economy.

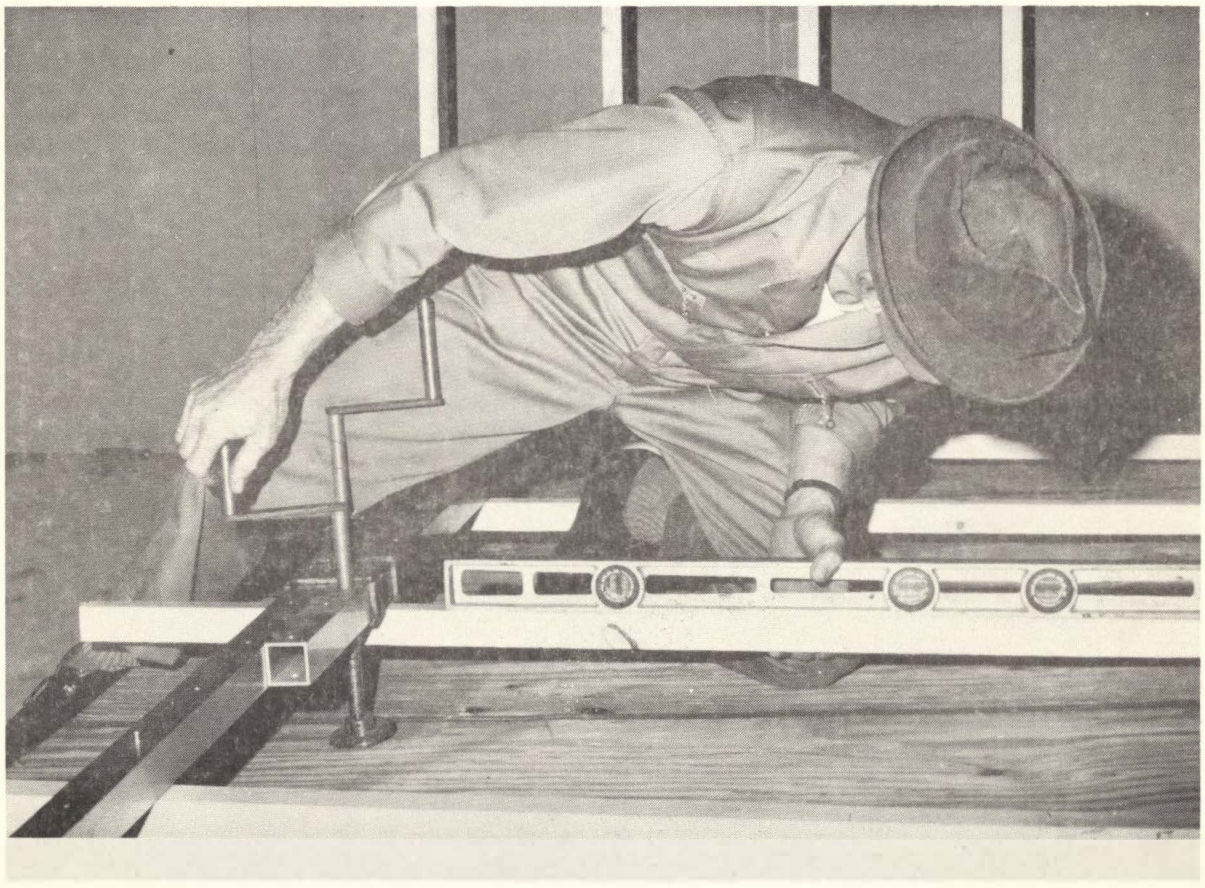
With the patented MARCRAFT system, a leveling device holds 2 by 2 inch wooden strips in a level position over the old floors.

Then fast-hardening plastic foam, frothy like aerosol shaving cream, is sprayed under and around the wooden strips. This bonds the strips to the old floors and results in a rigid framework that acts as a level foundation for nailing on the new floor.

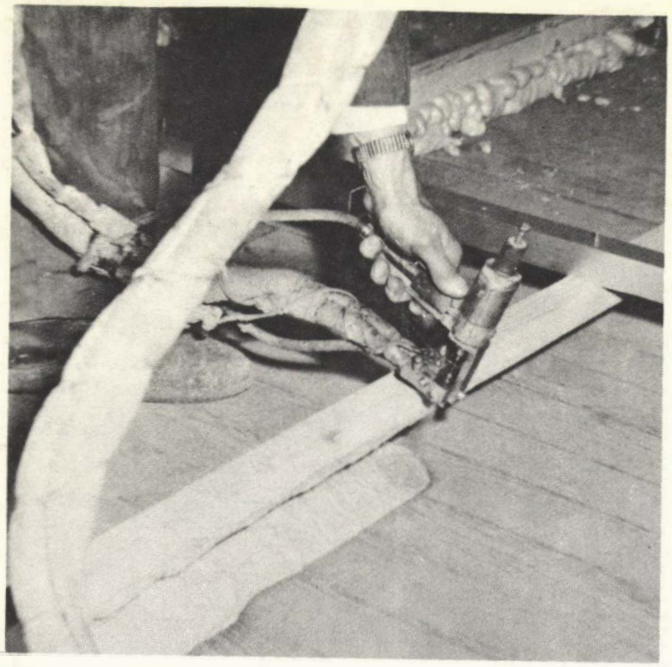
This is a structurally sound way to rehabilitate sagging, old floors. Strips placed two feet apart provide more than ten times the normal design strength used for residential construction.

The savings to urban rehabilitation programs will be enormous. Workmen can install the level floor-bearing base in a 12 by 12 foot room in less than 14 minutes. The cost for labor, materials, and equipment will be less than 7¢ per square foot, or $9.65 for the room. Using this system, the urban rehabilitation program in New York City, where it is estimated that 480,000 apartments need about 580,000 square feet of new floor, could save 27.5 million man hours of labor and $120 million.

Detailed information on the system is contained in U.S. Forest Service Research Note, NE-66, The Marcraft Floor-Leveling System for Urban Rehabilitation.

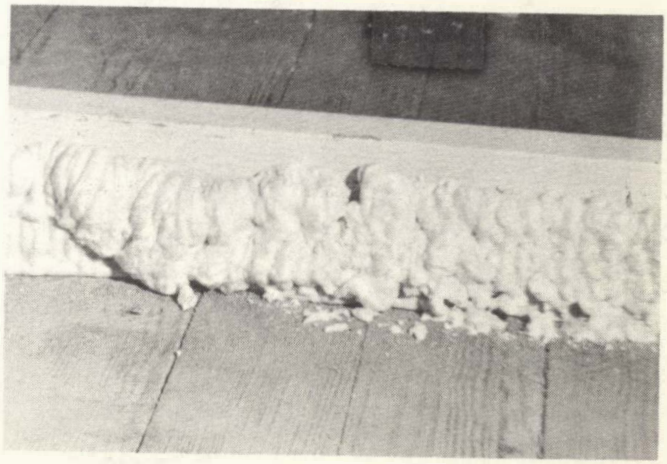


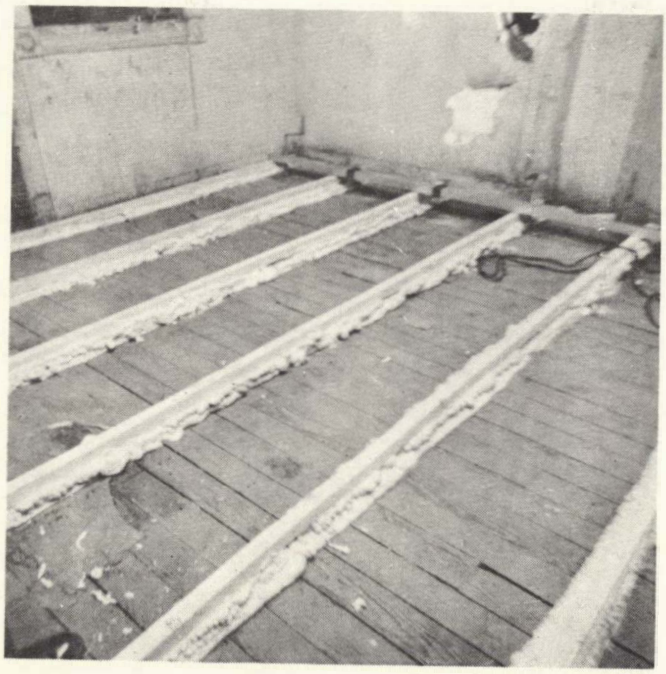
Checking to see if the new wooden strips are correctly positioned over an old, sagging floor.



Spraying the urethane foam to fill the sag-space beneath the new floor support.

The foam expands 36 times to form a rigid and permanent foundation for the wooden strips that will bear the weight of a new floor.





Ready for a new floor. The new floor supports in this room have more than 10 times the normal design strength for residential construction.